# THE HUMBLE PETITION OF The Major, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of LONDON to His Majesty;

WITH

# HIS MAIESTIES Gracious ANSVVER thereunto.

LONDON,

Printed for HUMPHRY TUCKEY. 1643.

Publiſhed by His MAJESTY's Command.

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# To the Kings most Excellent Majesty,

## The humble PETITION of the Major, Aldermen and Commons of the City of LONDON.

Sheweth,

THat the Petitioners, Your Majesties most humble and Loyall Subjects, being much pierced with the long and great divisions between Your Majestie, and both Your Houses of Parliament, and with the sad and bloody effects thereof, both here and in Ireland, are yet more deeply wounded by the misapprehension which Your Majestie seemeth to entertain of the Love and Loyalty of this Your City, as if there were some Cause of fear, or suspition of danger to Your Royall Person, if Your Majestie should return hither; and that this is made the unhappy Barre to that blessed Reconciliation with Your great and most faithfull Councell, for preventing that desolation and destruction which is now most apparently imminent to Your Majestie and all Your Kingdoms.

For satisfaction therefore of Your Majestie, and cleering of the Petitioners Innocencie, they most humbly declare, (as formerly they have done) That they are no way conscious of any Disloyalty, but abhor all thoughts thereof; and that they are resolved to make good their late solemn Protestation and sacred vow, made to Almighty God, and with the last drop of their dearest Bloods, to defend and maintain the true reformed Protestant Religion, and, according to the duty of their Allegiance, Your Majesties Royall Person, Honour and Estate, (whatsoever is maliciously and falsly suggested to Your Majestie to the contrary) as well as the Power and Priviledges of Parliament, and the lawfull Rights and Liberties of the Subject; and do hereby ingage themselves, their Estates, and all they have to their uttermost Power, to defend and preserve Your Majestie and both Houses of Parliament from all Tumults, Affronts and Violence, with as much Loyalty, Love and Duty, as ever Citizens expressed towards Your Majestie, or any of Your Royall Progenitors, in their greatest Glory.

The Petitioners therefore, upon their bended Knees do most humbly beseech Your Majestie to return to Your Parliament (accompanied with Your Royall, not Martiall attendance;) to the end, that Religion, Lawes and Liberties may be setled and secured, and whatsoever is amisse in Church and Common-wealth, reformed by their Advice, according to the fundamentall Constitutions of this Kingdom: and that such a Peace may thereby be obtained, as shall be for the glory of God, the Honour and

*Happineſſe of Your Majeſty and Poſterity, and the Safety and Welfare of all Your Loyall Subjects, Who (the Petitioners are fully aſſured, whatſoever is given out to the contrary,) do unfeignedly deſire the Peace herein expreſſed.* And the Petitioners ſhall ever pray, &c.

MICHELL.

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## His Majeſty hath gratiouſly conſidered this Petition, and returnes this Anſwer.

THat His Majeſty doth not entertain any miſ-apprehenſion of the love and Loyalty of his City of *London*. As he hath alwayes expreſſed a ſingular regard and eſteem of the affections of that City, and is ſtill deſirous to make it his chief place of reſidence, & to continue & renew many marks of his favour to it, ſo he believes much the better and greater part of that his City is full of Love, Duty & Loyalty to his Majeſty; and that the Tumults, which heretofore forced His Majeſty for his ſafety to leave that place, though they were contrived and encouraged by ſome principall members thereof, (who are ſince well known, though they are above the reach of Juſtice) conſiſted more of deſperate Perſons of the Suburbs, and the neighbouring Towns, (who were miſled too by the cunning and malice of their ſeducers,) then of the Inhabitants of that City. He lookes on his good Subjects there, as perſons groaning under the ſame burthen which doth oppreſſe his Majeſty, and awed by the ſame perſons who begat thoſe Tumults, and the ſame Army which gave Battell to his Majeſty. And therefore as no good Subject can more deſire from His ſoule a compoſure of the generall diſtractions, ſo no good Citizen can more deſire the eſtabliſhment of the particular Peace and Proſperity of that place, by his Majeſties Acceſſe thither, then His Majeſty himſelf doth.

But His Majeſty deſires his good Subjects of *London* ſeriouſly to conſider; what confidence His Majeſty can have of ſecurity there, whilſt the Laws of the Land are ſo notoriouſly deſpiſed and trampled under foot, and the wholſome Government of that City (heretofore ſo famous over all the World) is now ſubmitted to the Arbitrary Power of a few deſperate perſons of no Reputation, but for malice and diſloyalty to him; Whil'ſt armes are taken up not only without, but againſt his conſent and expreſſe command, and Collections publikely made, and Contributions avowed for the maintenance of the Army which hath given him battle, and therein uſ'd all poſſible

ſible meanes Treaſon and Malice could ſuggeſt to them, to have taken His life from Him, and to have deſtroyed His Royall Iſſue; Whileſt ſuch of His Majeſties Subjects, who out of Duty and affection to His Majeſty, and Compaſſion of their bleeding Country, have labour'd for Peace, are reviled, injured and murthered, even by the Magiſtrates of that City, or by their directions; Laſtly, what hope His Majeſty can have of ſafety there whilſt Alderman *Pennington* their pretended Lord Major, (the principall Authour of thoſe Calamities, which ſo neerly threaten the Ruine of that famous City, *Ven*, *Foulke*, and *Mainwairing* (all Perſons notoriouſly guilty of Schiſme, and high Treaſon,) commit ſuch outrages in oppreſſing, robbing and impriſoning, according to their Diſcretion, all ſuch His Majeſties loving Subjects, whom they are pleaſed to ſuſpect but for wiſhing well to His Majeſty. And His Majeſty would know whether the Petitioners believe, that the reviling and ſuppreſſing the Book of Common Prayer, (eſtabliſht in this Church ever ſince the Reformation,) the diſcountenancing and impriſoning Godly, Learned, and painfull Preachers, and the cheriſhing and countenancing of Browniſts, Anabaptiſts, and all manner of Sectaries, be the way to defend, and mayntain the True, Reformed, Proteſtant Religion? That to comply with and aſſiſt perſons, who have actually attempted to kill His Majeſty, and to allow and favour Libels, Paſquils, and ſeditious Sermons againſt His Majeſty, be to defend His Royall Perſon and Honour, according to the duty of their Allegiance? Whether to impriſon mens Perſons, and to Plunder their Houſes, becauſe they wil not Rebell againſt His Majeſty, nor aſſiſt thoſe that doe? Whether to deſtroy their Property by taking away the Twentieth part of their Eſtates from them, and by the ſame Arbitrary Power to referre to foure ſtanders by of their own faction, to judge what that Twentieth part is, be to defend the lawfull Rights and Liberties of the Subject? And if they think theſe Actions to be inſtances of either; whether they doe not know the perſons before named to be guilty of them all? Or whether they thinke it poſſible, that Almighty God can bleſſe that City, and preſerve it from deſtruction, whilſt perſons of ſuch known Guilt and Wickedneſſe are defended and juſtified amongſt them, againſt the power of that Law, by which they can only ſubſiſt.

His Majeſty is ſo farre from ſuffering Himſelfe to be incenſed againſt the whole City, by the actions of theſe ill men, though they have hitherto been ſo prevalent as to make the Affections of the reſt of little uſe to Him, and is ſo willing to be with them, and to protect them, that the Trade, Wealth, and Glory thereof (ſo decayed and Eclipſed by theſe publike Diſtractions) may again be the Envy of all forraign Nations, That He doth once more graciouſly

offer

offer His free and generall Pardon to all the Inhabitants of that His City of *London*, the Suburbs, and Citty of *Westminster*, (except the Persons formerly excepted by His Majesty,) if they shall yet returne to their Duty, Loyalty and Obedience; And if His good Subjects of that His City of *London*, shall first solemnly declare, That they will defend the knowne Lawes of the Land, and will submit to, and be govern'd by no other Rule; if they shall first manifest, by defending themselves, and maintaining their own Rights, Liberties and Interests, and suppressing any force and violence unlawfully raised against those, and His Majesty, their Power to defend and preserve Him from all Tumults, Affronts and Violence; Lastly, if they shall apprehend and commit to safe Custody the Persons of those foure men, who enrich themselves by the spoile and oppression of His loving Subjects, and the ruine of the Citty, that His Majesty may proceed against them by the course of Law, as guilty of high Treason, His Majesty will speedily returne to them with His Royall, and without His Martiall Attendance, and will use His utmost endeavour, that they may hereafter enjoy all the Blessings of Peace and Plenty, and will no longer expect obedience from them, then he shall, with all the faculties of His Soule, labour in the preserving and advancing the true, reformed, Protestant Religion, the Lawes of the Land, the Liberty and Propriety of the Subject, and the just Priviledges of Parliament.

If notwithstanding all this, the Art and interest of these men can prevaile so farre, that they involve more men in their guilt, and draw that His Citty to sacrifice it's, present Happines and future Hopes to their Pride, Fury, and Malice, His Majesty shall onely give them this Warning, That whosoever shall henceforward, take up Arms without his consent contribute any Mony or Plate, upon what pretence of Authority soever, for maintenance of the Army under the Command of the Earle of *Essex*, or any other Army in Rebellion against Him, or shall pay Tunnage and Poundage, till the same shall be setled by Act of Parliament; Every such Person must expect the severest punishment the Law can inflict; and in the meane time His Majesty shall seize upon any part of his Estate within His Power, for the relief and support of him and His Army rais'd and maintain'd for the Defence of His Person, the Lawes, and this His Kingdome; And since he denyes to His Majesty the duty and benefit of his subjection, by giving assistance to Rebells, which by the knowne Lawes of the Land is high Treason, His Majesty shall likewise deny him the benefit of his Protection, and shall not only signifie to all His Forraigne Ministers, that such Person shall receive no advantage by being His Subject, but shall by all other wayes and meanes proceed against him as a publike Enemy to His Majesty, and this Kingdome.

But

But His Majeſty hopes and doubts not, but his good Subjects of *London* will call to minde the Acts of their predeceſſors, their Duty, Affection, Loyalty and merit towards their Princes, the Renowne they have had with all poſterity for, and the Bleſsing of Heaven which alwayes accompanied thoſe virtues: and will conſider the perpetual ſcorne and infamy, which unavoidably will follow them and their children, if infinitely the meaner part in quality, and much the leſſer part in number, ſhall be able to alter the Government ſo admirably eſtabliſhed, deſtroy the Trade ſo excellently ſetled, and to waſte the wealth ſo induſtriouſly gotten, of that flouriſhing City; And then they will eaſily gather up the Courage and Reſolution to joyn with His Majeſty in Defence of that Religion, Law and Liberty, which hitherto hath and only can make themſelves, His Majeſty, and His Kingdom happy

For concurring with the Advice of His Two Houſes of Parliament, which with Reference to the Common-wealth may be as well at this diſtance, as by being at *White-hall*, His Majeſty doubts not but his good Subjects of *London* well know how farre (beyond the example of His Predeceſſors) His Majeſty hath concurred with their advice, in paſsing of ſuch Lawes, by which He willingly parted with many of His knowne Rights for the benefit of His Subjects, which the fundamentall Conſtitutions of this Kingdome did not oblige him to conſent unto, and hath uſed all poſsible meanes to beget a right underſtanding betweene them; And will therefore apply themſelves to thoſe, who by making Juſt, Peaceable and Honourable Propoſitions to His Majeſty can only beget that concurrence.

(*.*)

*FINIS.*